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VMFA to offer extended hours for *Terracotta Army* exhibition

Museum to remain open until 9 p.m. on March 3, 4, 10 and 11.



View of *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China* at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. (Photo by David Stover © VMFA)

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will offer extended hours for *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China*, during the final two weekends before it closes on March 11. The special exhibition—which opened Nov. 18, 2017—has welcomed more than 160,000 visitors to date, making it the second highest attended exhibition in VMFA’s history, after 2011’s *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*.

“We are thrilled by the immense interest Virginians and out-of-state visitors have shown for *Terracotta Army*,” said Alex Nyerges, VMFA director. “As we enter the final weeks of this spectacular exhibition, VMFA looks forward to providing additional opportunities for guests to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

The museum will remain open until 9 p.m. on March 3 and 4, and March 10 and 11. The museum’s permanent galleries, the VMFA Shop, Amuse restaurant and Best Café will also be open until 9 p.m. on these dates.

Visitors are encouraged to make advance reservations for timed exhibition tickets. The exhibition is free for VMFA members, children ages 6 and under, active-duty military personnel and their immediate families, and Commonwealth of Virginia employees; \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors 65+, and \$10 for ages 7-17 and college students with ID. Visitors can reserve tickets online (<http://reservations.vmfa.museum/state/info.aspx?ActivityID=4461>) or by phone at 804.340.1405.

About *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China*

First discovered in 1974 by farmers in China, an underground army of nearly 8,000 life-size terracotta figures is considered one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century. Discovered one mile east of the known burial site of the First Emperor of China, the terracotta army was created to accompany the emperor to the afterlife. This special exhibition features 10 majestic terracotta figures among 130 works that tell the story of China’s birth and one man’s lasting imprint on a nation.

Organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Cincinnati Art Museum, in partnership with Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau, Shaanxi History Museum (Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center), and Emperor Qin Shihuang’s Mausoleum Site Museum of the People’s Republic of China. The exhibition is curated by Li Jian, VMFA E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter curator of East Asian art, and Hou-mei Sung, Cincinnati Art Museum curator of Asian art.

Sponsorship information

Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China is presented by Altria Group and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Sponsors include the Anne Carter and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation, Virginia H. Spratley Charitable Fund II, Dr. Donald S. and Beejay Brown Endowment, The Community Foundation *Serving Richmond & Central Virginia*, Mrs. Frances Massey Dulaney, Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation, Dr. and Mrs. Steven E. Epstein, Frank Qiu and Ting Xu of Evergreen Enterprises, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, Stauer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Tattersall, Ellen Bayard Weedon Foundation, and YHB | CPAs & Consultants. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund.

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The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 40,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, and French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting, and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan, and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its history.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.